



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE operation arrests 32 fugitives hiding in Edison, New Jersey *Surveillance by ICE offices indicates some fugitives were working together to defy the law*

EDISON, N.J. – In a pre-dawn operation this morning dozens of officers from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Fugitive Operations Teams arrested 32 fugitives hiding in the Edison area. All of the individuals arrested are illegal aliens from Indonesia who have been ordered deported by U.S. Immigration Judges and have defied that order.

Each of these individuals has a final order of removal issued by an immigration judge. "ICE is systematically targeting those who violate removal orders, and aggressively enforcing those orders," said Raymond A. Simonse, field office director for ICE's office of detention and removal in Newark. "ICE's investigation revealed that some of these individuals worked together to hide their identities and locations and some frequently moved in an effort to evade law enforcement."

ICE will detain all of the individuals pending their removal back to Indonesia. Three other individuals from Indonesia who are illegally in the country were also arrested during the operation; bring the total number of arrests to 35. Today's operation included deportation officers from ICE offices in both Newark and New York.

Removing fugitives from the U.S. is one of the cornerstones of the Interior Enforcement strategy of the Secure Border Initiative announced last month by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

Since ICE was created in March 2003, these teams have arrested more than 42,000 aliens, of which 31,000 were fugitives. More than 29,000 of these individuals have been removed from the country. The New Jersey Fugitive Operations Team has apprehended 796 individuals so far this fiscal year. By the end of this fiscal year, ICE will expand the number of Fugitive Operations teams from the existing 35 teams to 52 teams.

ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.